

**Amendment to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for a first device to establish a link between the first device and a second device, comprising:

transmitting a Q.921 disconnect request message from the first device to the second device in response to a management plane data link ~~establish~~ establishment request; and  
thereafter

to fulfill said data link establishment request, transmitting a Q.921 request for connection to establish link message from the first device to the second device upon one of expiration of an awaiting-response timer, receiving a Q.921 disconnect mode message from the second device, or receiving ~~an~~ a Q.921 acknowledgement message from the second device.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the disconnect request message transmitted by the first device to the second device includes a poll bit set to 0.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising setting an awaiting-response-to-the-disconnect-message flag in response to receiving the data link ~~establish~~ establishment request.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 3, further comprising after transmitting the disconnect request message to the second device and upon receiving an acknowledgement message from the second device, determining if the awaiting-response-to-the-disconnect-message flag is set, wherein the first device transmits the request for connection to establish link

message to the second device upon receiving an acknowledgement message from the second device only if the awaiting-response-to-the-disconnect-message flag is set.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein said disconnect request message comprises a DISC message as specified by ITU Recommendation Q.921.

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Claim 6 (currently amended): A computer program product for enabling a first device to establish a link between the first device and a second device, said computer program product comprising:

code that causes ~~a processor to transmit~~ transmission of a Q.921 disconnect request message from the first device to the second device in response to a management plane data link ~~establish~~ establishment request;

code that causes ~~said processor to transmit~~, in fulfillment of said data link establishment request and after transmission of said Q.921 disconnect request message, transmission of a Q.921 request for connection to establish link message from the first device to the second device upon one of expiration of an awaiting-response timer, receiving a Q.921 disconnect mode message from the second device, or receiving ~~an~~ a Q.921 acknowledgement message from the second device; and

a computer-readable medium for storing the codes.

Claim 7 (original): The product of claim 6, wherein the disconnect request message transmitted by the first device to the second device includes a poll bit set to 0.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The product of claim 6, further comprising code that causes said processor to set an awaiting-response-to-the-disconnect-message flag in response to receiving the data link ~~establish~~ establishment request.

Claim 9 (original): The product of claim 8, further comprising code that, after the disconnect request message is transmitted to the second device and upon receiving an acknowledgement message from the second device, causes said processor to determine if the awaiting-response-to-the-disconnect-message flag is set, wherein the first device transmits the request for connection to establish link message to the second device upon receiving an acknowledgement message from the second device only if the awaiting-response-to-the-disconnect-message flag is set.

Claim 10 (original): The product of claim 6 wherein said disconnect request message comprises a DISC message as specified by ITU Recommendation Q.921.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A first device that establishes a link to a second device, said first device comprising:

a processor that executes software; and

a computer-readable storage medium that stores the software, said software comprising:

code that causes said processor to transmit a Q.921 disconnect request message from the first device to the second device in response to a management plane data link ~~establish~~ establishment request; and

code that causes said processor to, in fulfillment of said data link establishment request and after transmission of said Q.921 disconnect request message, transmit a Q.921

request for connection to establish link message from the first device to the second device upon one of transmission timer expiration, receiving a Q.921 disconnect mode message from the second device, or receiving an Q.921 acknowledgement message from the second device.

Claim 12 (original): The first device of claim 11, wherein the disconnect request message transmitted by the first device to the second device includes a poll bit set to 0.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The first device of claim 11, wherein said software further comprises code that causes said processor to set an awaiting-response-to-the-disconnect-message flag in response to receiving the data link ~~establish~~ establishment request.

Claim 14 (original): The first device of claim 13, further comprising code that, after the disconnect request message is transmitted to the second device and upon receiving an acknowledgement message from the second device, causes said processor to determine if the awaiting-response-to-the-disconnect-message flag is set, wherein the first device transmits the request for connection to establish link message to the second device upon receiving an acknowledgement message from the second device only if the awaiting-response-to-the-disconnect-message flag is set.

Claim 15 (original): The first device of claim 11 wherein said disconnect request message comprises a DISC message as specified by ITU Recommendation Q.921.

Claim 16 (currently amended): Apparatus for a first device to establish a link between the first device and a second device, said apparatus comprising:

means for transmitting a Q.921 disconnect request message from the first device to the second device in response to a management plane data link ~~establish~~ establishment request; and

means for, in fulfillment of said data link establishment request and after transmission of said Q.921 disconnect request message, transmitting a Q.921 request for connection to establish link message from the first device to the second device upon one of expiration of an awaiting-response timer, receiving a Q.921 disconnect mode message from the second device, or receiving ~~an~~ Q.921 acknowledgement message from the second device.

Claim 17 (original): The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the disconnect request message transmitted by the first device to the second device includes a poll bit set to 0.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising setting an awaiting-response-to-the-disconnect-message flag in response to receiving the data link ~~establish~~ establishment request.

Claim 19 (original): The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising means for, after transmitting the disconnect request message to the second device and upon receiving an acknowledgement message from the second device, determining if the awaiting-response-to-the-disconnect-message flag is set, wherein the first device transmits the request for connection to establish link message to the second device upon receiving an acknowledgement message from the second device only if the awaiting-response-to-the-disconnect-message flag is set.

Claim 20 (original): The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said disconnect request message comprises a DISC message as specified by ITU Recommendation Q.921.